

"This is a good day for Ft. Ord and the Monterey Peninsula. My commitment to getting the land at Ft. Ord cleaned up and ready for use by the local communities has never wavered, and today marks a monumental step in cleaning up the remaining land designated for local use," said Farr.

"In the past few months it looked like the Army wasn't going to find the money, but my office never let up. My staff worked day and night to stop the Army from letting this deal slip away and especially to make sure that no corners were cut on the clean-up agreement. Without this deal between Army and FORA, the remaining clean-up would likely take another twenty years. Now, if the Army and FORA stay true to their deal, it could be done in as little as five or six years."

Farr was informed this morning that the Office of the Secretary of Defense had approved \$40 million to be transferred to FORA via the Army within this month as the first of three expected phases of payment in accordance with an Environmental Services Contract Agreement. Farr has used his position on the House committee which oversees all military construction funds, including all Base Realignment and Closure funds, to bring the Army and FORA together on this agreement for several years. Last fall and winter details were finally hashed out when Army balked at finding the money, but Farr stepped in to ensure the money finally came through.

Farr's military construction funding committee is currently writing their FY08 spending bill and Farr is engaged in negotiations to ensure that the BRAC accounts have the funds available so Army can make the next phase of payments to FORA .

The Environmental Services Contract Agreement between Army and FORA allows FORA to move forward with clean-up of former Ft. Ord land without waiting for Army officials who have been distracted by other BRAC concerns. The clean-up will happen according to an agreement put together by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Environmental Protection Agency and California Department of Toxic Substances Control.